Robert D. Braun

Dr. Robert D. Braun is the David and Andrew Lewis Associate Professor of Space Technology in the Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. As Co-Director of Georgia Tech's Space Systems Design Laboratory, he leads a research program focused on the design of advanced flight systems and technologies for planetary exploration. Dr. Braun is responsible for undergraduate and graduate level instruction in the areas of space systems design, astrodynamics and planetary entry. Prior to coming to Georgia Tech, Dr. Braun worked at NASA for fifteen years where he contributed to the design, development, test, and operation of several robotic space flight systems. He was a member of the Mars Pathfinder design team from 1992 to 1997, participating in landing operations for this mission. He has also contributed to the Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Microprobe, Mars Sample Return and Mars Odyssey flight projects. From 2001-2003, Dr. Braun managed the development of the ARES Mars Scout mission, a proposed scientific survey utilizing a Mars airplane. Dr. Braun received a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Penn State in 1987, M.S. in Astronautics from the George Washington University in 1989, and Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University in 1996. He has received the 1999 AIAA Lawrence Sperry Award, two NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals and seven NASA Group Achievement Awards. He is an AIAA Associate Fellow and the principle author or co-author of over 100 technical publications in the fields of atmospheric flight dynamics, planetary exploration, multidisciplinary design optimization, and systems engineering